

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1           1.     A method for securing a computer connected to an  
2 insecure network when the computer is not utilizing the insecure network,  
3 wherein the computer is installed with a program managing the connection  
4 with the insecure network, the method comprising the steps of:  
5                 determining whether the computer is active;  
6                 deactivating the computer from the insecure network when it is  
7 determined that the computer is inactive; and,  
8                 waiting for a predefined time period to repeat the method.
- 1           2.     The method according to claim 1 further comprising the  
2 step of displaying the current status of the insecure network on the computer.
- 1           3.     The method according to claim 1 further comprising the  
2 steps of:  
3                 obtaining an address for the network card;  
4                 obtaining an address for an interface connected to the insecure  
5 network using the obtained address of the network card; and,  
6                 obtaining the status of the obtained address of the interface.
- 1           4.     The method according to claim 3 wherein said step of  
2 obtaining an address further comprises the steps of:  
3                 initializing any sockets support in the program managing the  
4 insecure connection;  
5                 loading a driver having an object identifier of the program  
6 managing the insecure connection;  
7                 obtaining an address for the initialization function and an address  
8 for the query function from the program; and,  
9                 calling the initialization function to initialize the driver.

1                   5.     The method according to claim 4 wherein said step of  
2 obtaining an address for an interface connected to the insecure network further  
3 comprises the steps of:

4                   determining a total number of interface(s) using the obtained  
5 address of the network card; and,  
6                   storing the obtained total number of interface(s) in temporary  
7 memory.

1                   6.     The method according to claim 5 wherein said step of  
2 obtaining the status of each obtained address of the interface further comprises  
3 the steps of:

4                   reading the status of the obtained address of the interface; and,  
5                   saving the obtained address of the interface with the read status  
6 to memory.

1                   7.     The method according to claim 3 wherein said step of  
2 deactivating the computer from the insecure network further comprises the step  
3 of setting each obtained address of the interface to an inactive status.

1                   8.     The method according to claim 1 further comprising the  
2 steps of:

3                   determining whether there is a network reactivation request; and,  
4                   reactivating the computer on the insecure network when there is a  
5 network reactivation request.

1                   9.     The method according to claim 1 further comprising the  
2 steps of:

3                   determining whether there is a network deactivation request; and,  
4                   deactivating the computer from the insecure network when there  
5 is a network deactivation request.

1           10. The method according to claim 3 wherein prior said step  
2 of determining whether the computer is active further comprises the steps of:  
3           determining whether the obtained address of the interface  
4 connected to the insecure network has an active status; and,  
5           waiting for a predefined time period to repeat the method when  
6 the obtained address of the interface has a nonactive status.

1           11. The method according to claim 1 wherein said step of  
2 determining whether the computer is active further comprises the steps of:  
3           determining whether there is any active network process currently  
4 running via the insecure network when it is determined that the computer is  
5 active;

6           deactivating the computer from the insecure network when it is  
7 determined that there is no active network process currently running via the  
8 insecure network; and,

9           waiting for a predefined time period to repeat the method when it  
10 is determined that there is an active network process currently running via the  
11 insecure network.

1           12. The method according to claim 11 wherein said step of  
2 determining whether there is any active network process currently running  
3 further comprises the steps of:

4           obtaining an address for the network card;

5           obtaining an address for an interface connected to the insecure  
6 network using the obtained address of the network card;

7           reading an old number of received and transmitted bytes over the  
8 obtained address of the interface;

9           changing the obtained address of the interface to an address for  
10 obtaining the number of bytes received;

11 reading the number of bytes received;  
 12 saving the read number of bytes received as a new number;  
 13 the obtained address of the interface to an address for obtaining  
 14 the number of bytes transmitted;  
 15 reading the number of bytes transmitted;  
 16 saving the read number of bytes transmitted as a new number;  
 17 determining whether the old numbers of received and transmitted  
 18 bytes equal to the new numbers of received and transmitted bytes;  
 19 returning a determination that an active network process is  
 20 currently active when the old numbers do not equal the new numbers; and,  
 21 returning a determination that no active network process is  
 22 currently running when the old numbers equal the new numbers.  
 23 13. The method according to claim 1 wherein said step of  
 24 determining whether the computer is active is performed by a step of  
 25 determining whether the screen saver is activated on the computer.

1 14. The method according to claim 13 wherein said step of  
 2 determining whether the screen saver is activated further comprises the step of  
 3 determining the current version of a Microsoft Windows® operating system  
 4 installed on the computer.

1 15. The method according to claim 14 wherein when the  
 2 current version of Microsoft Windows® is not Windows NT, the method  
 3 further comprising the steps of:

4 executing the findwindow function to find windowsscreensaver;  
 5 determining whether the windowsscreensaver is found by the  
 6 findwindow function;  
 7 returning a determination that the screen saver is active when the  
 8 windowsscreensaver is found; and,

9                   returning a determination that the screen saver is not active when  
10 the windowsscreensaver is not found.

1                   16. The method according to claim 14 wherein when the  
2 current version of Microsoft Windows® is Windows NT version 4.0 or later,  
3 the method further comprising the steps of:

4                   executing a systemparametersinfo function to find  
5 getscreensaverrunning;

6                   determining whether the getscreensaverrunning is found by the  
7 systemparametersinfo function;

8                   returning a determination that the screen saver is active when the  
9 getscreensaverrunning is found; and,

10                  returning a determination that the screen saver is not active when  
11 the getscreensaverrunning is not found.

1                   17. The method according to claim 14 wherein when the  
2 current version of Microsoft Windows® is Windows NT version 4.0 or older,  
3 the method further comprising the steps of:

4                   opening a desktop of the computer where the screen saver runs  
5 on;

6                   determining whether opening the desktop is successful;

7                   returning a determination that the screen saver is active when the  
8 opening of the desktop is successful;

9                   determining whether access to the desktop has been denied when  
10 the opening of the desktop is not successful;

11                  returning a determination that the screen saver is not active when  
12 access to the desktop has not been denied; and,

13                  returning a determination that the screen saver is active when the  
14 access to the desktop has not been denied.

1           18. A system for securing a computer connected to an insecure  
2 network when the computer is not utilizing the insecure network, wherein the  
3 computer is installed with a program managing the connection with the  
4 insecure network, the system comprising:

5               means for determining whether the computer is active;  
6               means for deactivating the computer from the insecure network  
7 when it is determined that the computer is inactive; and,  
8               means for waiting for a predefined time period to repeat the  
9 method.

1           19. A computer program product comprising a computer  
2 readable code stored on a computer readable medium that, when executed, the  
3 computer program product causes a computer to:

4               determine whether the computer is active;  
5               deactivate the computer from the insecure network when it is  
6 determined that the computer is inactive; and,  
7               wait for a predefined time period to repeat the method.